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PATENT

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12/22/03 Michelle Hobson
Date Signature

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

CONTAG et al.

Serial No.: 08/844,336

Filing Date: April 18, 1997

Title: BIODETECTORS TARGETED TO SPECIFIC
LIGANDS

Examiner: R. Zeman

Group Art Unit: 1645

Confirmation No.: 7227

Customer No.: 20855

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on October 22, 2003, for which a reply is due before January 22, 2004. Because this response is submitted within two months of the date of mailing of the Final Office Action (by December 22, 2003), **expedited procedure after final is requested.**

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.